



The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for HR 4450

Dear Mr. Bilirakis:

My name is Clyde J. Hart and I am the Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Policy for the American Bus Association (ABA). The ABA is the premier trade association for the private over-the-road bus and motorcoach industry. The ABA is home to some 800 bus operator companies and also represents some 3200 associations, companies, destinations, attractions, hotels and restaurants in the North America. Our bus operating companies transports some 640 million passengers annually. We transport more passengers in two weeks than Amtrak does in one year.

At the same time ABA is very interested and very engaged in promoting travel to the United States as a tourist destination. Our membership includes many convention and visitors' bureaus (CVBs) and Chambers of Commerce whose mission is to increase tourism to their areas. Moreover, ABA membership extends to attractions and destinations in Canada. It is because of our mission to grow the motorcoach travel industry that we support HR 4450, the Extend the Travel Promotion Act Of 2009, bill.

The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 did much to promote travel into the United States. It is responsible for bringing 1.1 million tourists into the country. The TPA demonstrated the success of a public-private partnership in advancing tourism and the need for it. ABA is happy to be a part of the coalition of tourism entities to continue the work of the TPA.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clyde J. Hart, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Clyde J. Hart
Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Policy

Cc: Adam Russell
Adam.Russell@mail.house.gov